REMARKS

Claims 1-138 are pending in this application and are subject to restriction to two groups. Group I, encompassing claims 1-13, 15-24, 26-39, 41-47, 49-57, 59-71, 73-79, 81-100, 102-105, 107-112, 114-122, 124-132, and 134-137, is alleged by the Office Action to be directed to methods for *in vitro* production of antigen-specific immunoglobulin producing cells comprising treating cells isolated from a donor with leucylleucine; methods of producing hybridoma cells or mammalian expression cells that produce high affinity antibodies using *in vitro* immunized immunoglobulin producing cells; and hybridoma and mammalian expression cells made thereby. Group II, encompassing claims 14, 25 40, 48, 58, 72, 80, 101, 106, 113, 123, 133, and 138, is alleged by the Office Action to be directed to antibodies produced by the hybridomas of Group I. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement because a search and examination of the entirety of the subject matter recited in the pending claims can be conducted without a serious burden.

The purpose of 35 U.S.C. § 121 is to avoid the necessity of conducting separate and diverse searches of claims directed to independent or distinct subject matter. Separate and diverse searches would not be required for the present application, however, because the relationship among the claimed subject matter is such that a search of the subject matter encompassed by the claims of Group I would necessarily lead to disclosures, to the extent that any exist, of the subject matter encompassed by the claims of Group II. For example, a comprehensive search of the methods of producing hybridoma cells or mammalian expression cells that produce high affinity antibodies using *in vitro* immunized immunoglobulin producing cells, the subject matter, *inter alia*, of Group I, would necessarily lead to specific disclosures, to the extent that any exist, of hybridoma cells made thereby, the subject matter encompassed by Group II. Accordingly, a search and examination of the subject matter encompassed by both Group I and Group II would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. M.P.E.P. § 803 ("If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the

examiner ***must*** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.") (emphasis added).

Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.143, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the subject matter of Group I for prosecution on the merits.

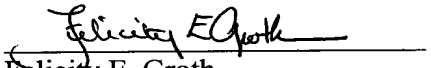
A further election of species among methods relying on chemical inhibitors of mismatch repair also is required. Applicants elect anthracene inhibitors with the understanding that, upon allowance of a generic claim, consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR § 1.141 will be given.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable Action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 30, 2006



Felicity E. Groth
Registration No. 47,042

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439